

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /082 W
----- 113412

R 130925Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1579

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12259

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE

SUMMARY. LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE AUGUST 13 REFUSED TO VENTURE A PREDICTION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE. JSP SEC GEN ISHIBASHI, ON THE OTHER HAND, THOUGHT PRIME MINISTER MIKI AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WOULD SOON REACH A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON THE TIMING OF MIKI'S "RETIREMENT." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING COURSE OF POL COUNSELOR'S COURTESY CALL ON LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE AUGUST 13, LATTER OFFERED NO PREDICTION ON OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE. NAKASONE DID, HOWEVER, STRESS MIKI'S DETERMINATION TO REMAIN IN OFFICE AND THE ADVANTAGES OF A POLITICIAN (MIKI) OVER THE BUREAUCRATS (FUKUDA AND OHIRA) IN TOUGH POLITICAL INFIGHTING.

2. SPEAKING AS AN "OBJECTIVE OBSERVER," JSP SEC GEN ISHIBASHI, LATER THE SAME DAY, TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT HE

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EXPECTED MIKI AND FUKUDA WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO

AGREE ON THE TIMING OF MIKI'S "RETIREMENT." IF
AGREEMENT WERE REACHED, MIKI WOULD RESIGN BEFORE THE
EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION OR AFTER THE UPCOMING GENERAL
ELECTION, BUT NOT IN BETWEEN. IF NO MEETING OF THE
MINDS WAS REACHED, HOWEVER, ISHIBASHI EXPECTED MIKI TO
CONVENE THE DIET ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, DISSOLVE IT
IMMEDIATELY AND HOLD A GENERAL ELECTION THEREAFTER.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY SCHISMS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO12259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760311-1237
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760854/aaaabulo.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE SUMMARY. LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE AUGUST 13 REFUSED TO VENTURE A PREDICTION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT
TAGS: PINT, JA, LDP, (FUKUDA, TAKEO), (MIKI, TAKEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006